

SENATE RESOLUTION 174

By Gresham

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend J. C. Gallaher for his meritorious service to these United States.

WHEREAS, our nation was conceived by individuals who were willing to sacrifice their personal safety and concerns to ensure our individual and collective freedom, and the Volunteer State is especially proud to be the home of so many valiant men and women who have performed above and beyond the call of duty; and

WHEREAS, one such individual is J. C. Gallaher of Wayne County, who served with bravery and honor as a member of the United States Army during the Korean Conflict; and

WHEREAS, it was during his service that Mr. Gallaher was captured and imprisoned by the Chinese Army; he was held as a prisoner of war for nearly three years; and

WHEREAS, in 1950, Mr. Gallaher, a native of the Factory Creek community and nineteen years old at the time, enlisted in the Army and undertook his basic training at Fort Knox, Kentucky; and

WHEREAS, after General MacArthur's initial push into Korea, Mr. Gallaher and the men in his unit were forcing the North Korean Army close to the Chinese border in September of 1950; and

WHEREAS, it was on November 29, 1950, after the Chinese Army had crossed the border into North Korea, that J. C. Gallaher was part of a troop convoy attacked by Chinese troops. Mr. Gallaher and about five hundred other soldiers were taken prisoner; and

WHEREAS, over the next months, Private Gallaher and the other prisoners were marched north through the mountains in extremely cold weather, only to be turned around and marched south in March of 1951. After another long trek, the soldiers were turned yet again and marched back north to a prison camp in a village near the Yalu; and

WHEREAS, imprisoned with hundreds of fellow soldiers, J. C. survived on boiled cracked corn, soybeans, milo, barley, and millet seeds, with the occasional bowl of rice or slice of bread, and, at one point, suffered the ravages of dysentery; and

WHEREAS, on August 14, 1953, after thirty-two months and seventeen days of captivity, Mr. Gallaher and his fellow soldiers were finally released; and

WHEREAS, after returning to the United States, J. C. Gallaher married and settled down with his wife to raise a family; and

WHEREAS, he was a respected employee of Murray for thirty-two years, during which time he also dedicated his time and energies to raising cattle and logging; he retired from his long career at Murray in 1992; and

WHEREAS, J. C. Gallaher appreciates the love and support of his wife of fifty-five years, Thelma Jean, and is the proud father of two children and the doting grandfather of two grandsons, both of whom are carrying on the proud tradition of military service as members of the Army; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Gallaher served with courage and gallantry and deserves proper recognition for his heroism and his perseverance during his captivity; and

WHEREAS, J. C. Gallaher performed his duties with the utmost skill, dedication, and professionalism, and his military service can only be categorized as outstanding; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED SIXTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, that we hereby honor and commend J. C. Gallaher for his steadfast commitment to serving the United States of America, applaud his bravery during his nearly three years of imprisonment as a prisoner of war, and offer our best wishes for his every future success and happiness.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.